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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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P R 021010Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4445
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5888

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR TU CY
SUBJECT: ECEVIT'S REMARKS ON CYPRUS SETTLEMENT
AND DCA'S PROSPECTS

1. IN ITS REPORTING ON FORMER PRIMIN ECEVIT'S STATEMENT
DURING HIS US VISIT, THE TURKISH PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED TWO
PUBLIC POSITIONS THAT CAUSE US CONCERN.

2. THE FIRST OF THESE IS ECEVIT'S DECLARATION THAT "... THE
PROPOSALS WE ENVISAGED FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM
IN 1974 NO LONGER HOLD GOOD. TIME CHANGES CONDITIONS."
PREVIOUSLY ECEVIT'S POSITION HAD BEEN THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE
TO SUPPORT TURKISH FLEXIBILITY RE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT
AT LEAST WITH THE LIMITS OF WHAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT
HAD BEEN PREPARED TO OFFER IN NOVEMBER 1974.
WHILE WE HAD NEVER TAKEN MUCH COMFORT FROM THAT POSITION
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BECAUSE WHAT HE OBVIOUSLY WAS REFERRING TO WERE NEGOTIATING

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"OPENERS" AND THEREFORE NOT RPT NOT VERY GENEROUS,
NEVERTHELESS THE IMPLICATION OF THIS LATEST STATEMENT IS
THAT HE IS BACKING TINTO A HARDER LINE--WHICH WOULD
OF COURSE, FURTHER LIMIT THE PRESENT TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S
FLEXIBILITY. WE WILL BE PROBING ON THIS ISSUE AFTER HIS RETURN.

3. WE ARE FURTHER TROUBLED BY THE NEGATIVE OPINION
THAT ECEVIT SEEMS TO HAVE FORMED ABOUT THE CHANCES THAT
CONGRESS WILL ENDORSE THE DEFENCE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
(DCA). THE TURKISH PRESS REPORTS THAT ECEVIT SAID IN
CHICAGO AUGUST 1 THAT THE DCA COULD NOT RPT NOT BE
APPROVED BY CONGRESS BEFORE THE US ELECTIONS AND THAT
THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS PASSAGE AFTER THE ELECTIONS WAS POOR.
ECEVIT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "EITHER CARTER OR FORD WILL
WIN THE ELECTIONS. CARTER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF AGAINST
THE AGREEMENT. IF FORD WINS, CONGRESS WILL GO AGAINST
HIM AND NOT ENDORSE THE AGREEMENT." THESE VIEWS COULD
HAVE QUITE A DAMAGING EFFECT ON OUR SITUATION HERE AS THEIR
IMPLICATIONS ARE SEIZED UPON IN POLITICAL DEBATE AND
EDITORIALS. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT, IF FEASIBLE, A LAST-
MINUTE EFFORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE BE MADE--PERHAPS BY
TELEPHONE--TO ALTER ECEVIT'S CONCLUSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT,
ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE DCA'S PROSEPCTS AFTER THE
ELECTIONS.
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